



HJ0104

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that we remember those who
3 contributed to the betterment of the State of Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur was born in Indian Village,
5 St. Francois, Lower Canada on March 14, 1814, one of 6 children
6 of Charles and Luch Laur; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur emigrated from Canada to
8 Lincoln, Massachusetts in 1833; after working there for a few
9 years, he began flat-boating around 1839 on the Ohio and
10 Mississippi rivers, hauling merchandise from Pittsburgh,
11 Pennsylvania to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he would sell the
12 merchandise, dismantle the boat, sell the lumber, and return on
13 foot by way of the Natchez Trace, which was being traversed by
14 a constant stream of boatman during that era; and

15 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur established a permanent home
16 in Knob Prairie in Jefferson County in 1841; and

17 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur mustered into the Union Army
18 on October 19, 1861 as a First Lieutenant in Company K,
19 Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, commanded by Col. W.R.
20 Morrison; and

1 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur was promoted to Captain on
2 June 10, 1862 and thus earned the nickname "Cap"; he fought at
3 the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, the Red River
4 expedition, and the siege of Vicksburg; he was injured in
5 combat and discharged in September of 1865; and

6 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur was awarded the contract on
7 Star Route 11799 and served each post office from Ashley to
8 Moore's Prairie; and

9 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur died on June 8, 1895; during
10 his time, Williamsburg became Old Town and was superseded by
11 Waltonville; and

12 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur's service to the United States
13 and the State of Illinois has greatly benefited the surrounding
14 communities; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Big Muddy
18 Bridge east of Waltonville on IL Route 148 as the "Captain
19 Joseph Laur Memorial Bridge"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
21 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with

1 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
2 giving notice of the name "Captain Joseph Laur Memorial
3 Bridge"; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 presented to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation,
6 the Mayor of Waltonville, and the family of Captain Joseph
7 Laur.